

WASHINGTON D.C. - The following two bills overwhelmingly passed the US House of Representatives yesterday with bipartisan support.

First, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act (H.R. 1016) ensures sufficient and predictable veterans funding by authorizing Congress to approve investments in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical care one year in advance. This will provide time for the VA to plan how to deliver the best care to all veterans.

Also passed yesterday in the House was the Service Members Home Ownership Tax Act (H.R. 3590) which will make changes to several Recovery Act provisions to ensure that service members will not have to repay the first-time home buyer tax credit if they are ordered to deploy to a different location and, as a result, forced to sell their home within three years of buying it. It also extends for one year, the deadline for taking advantage the first-time homebuyer credit for qualifying service members, so that certain service members stationed overseas can take advantage of the credit when they return.

On the battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldier behind. As a nation, it must be our pledge that when they need our help, we leave no veteran behind. Their service is a testament to the common values of sacrifice, honor, and patriotism we all share.